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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 February 1949

SUBJECT 25X1A6a

SEPT, 1948

Possible Removal of Police
President Paul Markela Focument is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INI 25X1X6

- 1. There have been indications during the past year that the SMA and the SED were dissatisfied with the performance and political attitude of Paul Markgraf, Police President of Berlin (East). Well informed police officials were convinced that Markgraf was permitted to stay incoffice by the SMA only because of the peculiar political circumstances prevailing in Berlin: i.e., prior to the split in the Berlin police in July 1948 the SMA obviously could not agree to the dismissal or resignation of Markgraf who was under constant attack of the city administration and the western-licensed press. His dismissal at that time would have automatically made Dr. Johannes Stumm Acting Police President, Following the police split, Markgraf's removal would have had a bad preschological effect on the Eastern Sector and would have indirectly strengthened the authority of Dr. Stumm. But throughout this period (from July 1948 to January 1949) the SED leadership felt dissatisfied with the ideological attitude of the Eastern Sector police. Several attempts were made to strengthen the Communist spirit. Thus the politically reliable but ideologically inactive Chiefs of the Schutzpolizei and Criminal Police, Rudolf Wagner and Franz Erdmann, were replaced by two police "activists" from the Soviet Zone police organizations: the former Chemnitz Chief of Police, Ottomar Pech, and the former Chief of Abteilung "K" of the GAI, Alfred Schönherr, respectively.
- 2. While Markgraf was permitted to remain in office as Police President of the Eastern Sector, his authority was being gradually whittled down. For example, in early December 1948 the German Administration of the Interior ordered the establishment of a Polit-Kultur Department in the Eastern Sector Police Praesidium and a politied that this new department, headed by Police Vice-President Arthur Lehmann, will be directly responsible to the K/P Branch of the GAI and not to Markgraf. In the middle of January 1949 an order was issued, ostensibly by Markgraf, which stated that only Vice-President Lehmann can authorize press releases. Other reliable sources reported that in at least two instances the GAI prevailed on Markgraf to appoint certain personnel of whom Markgraf himself disapproved for both personal and professional reasons.
- 3. Throughout the fall of 1948 Markgraf had been in ill health. In

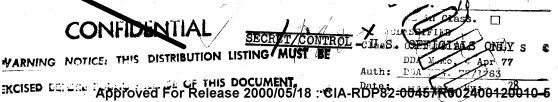
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

October he had not been in his office for almost three weeks, which gave rise to many rumors about his immediate resignation or dismissal. These rumors, were wholly unfounded at that time. Of course Markgraf's illness facilitated greatly the rapid ascendancy of the Praesidialdirektor Hans Seidel, who is regarded by many as the "strong man" behind Markgraf.

4. On 17 January 1949 Seidel received a letter from Fritz Ebert, the "Lord Mayor" of the illegal Bastern Sector city administration. In his letter Ebert stated that it was the desire of General Kotikov that Seidel should intensively familiarize himself with the official business of the Police President.

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